

REMARKS/ARGUMENT**Regarding the Claims in General:**

Claims 1-20 remain pending without change.

Regarding The Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 2-10, 12-16, and 20 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form incorporating the limitations of their respective parent claims. Because these claims are all directly or indirectly dependent on claim 1 or claim 11, both of which are believed to be allowable as demonstrated below, they have been retained in dependent form pending the Examiner's further consideration.

Regarding the Prior Art Rejection:

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1, 11, and 17-19 were rejected as anticipated by Agiman U.S. Patent 5,757,173 (Agiman). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1, for example, recites:

a high voltage device coupled to the midpoint of the switching half-bridge to register a detection voltage related to the voltage at the midpoint of the switching half-bridge;

The recitation in method claim 11 is essentially the same.

In the third paragraph in Section 2 of the Office Action (page 2) the Examiner identifies elements 63 and 64 of the Agiman patent as a high voltage device. However, careful reading of the specification reveals that this device, as well as the corresponding elements in all of the other Figures and embodiments are simply referred to as comparators with no mention whatsoever of high voltage capability. In short, there is no disclosure, teaching, or suggestion that a high voltage device be used for sensing the voltage at the common node between the totem pole connected power transistors in the Agiman patent. Claims 1 and 11 are accordingly not anticipated for this reason.

Claim 19, however, is somewhat different. This claim recites:

a high voltage device referenced between a high voltage of the switching half-bridge and a low side return voltage of the switching

half-bridge for registering a detection voltage at a midpoint of the switching half-bridge;

This claim requires not only a high voltage device, but that it be "referenced between a high voltage of the switching half-bridge and a low side return voltage". This construction is also absent from the Agiman patent, and is neither taught nor suggested by the disclosure thereof. Claim 19 is accordingly patentable for this reason as well.

Claims 17, and 18 are dependent on allowable claim 1, and are therefore allowable for the reasons stated above. In addition, these claim recite features which, in combination with the features of their respective parent claims are neither taught nor suggested in the Agiman patent.

Regarding Other References Cited by the Examiner

The Dagan U. S. Patent cited by the Examiner but not applied has been considered, but the present claims are not believed to be anticipated or rendered obvious by this reference.

In view of the foregoing, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully solicited.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by Facsimile to (703) 872-9306 addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence A Hoffman
Name of applicant, assignee or
Registered Representative

Lawrence A Hoffman
Signature

March 15, 2005
Date of Signature

LAH:gl

Lawrence A Hoffman
Registration No.: 22,436
OSTROLENK, FABER, GERB & SOFFEN, LLP
1180 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036-8403
Telephone: (212) 382-0700